

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the March 20, 2024 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present except for Chairperson Morrison.

President Potter reviewed the agenda and confirmed who would handle the various required motions this evening.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Submitted by,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: April 9, 2024

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President

## WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES – March 20, 2024

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

At President Potter's request, everyone rose for a moment of silence. Those assembled then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call by the clerk, the following members of the council were present:

Jo Anna Heck  
Amy Smith  
Amy Harcar  
Gerald Dixon  
Devin Brown  
Lori Elmore

Ms. Elmore moved to excuse the absent member and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and Chairperson Morrison was excused.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Brown moved to approve the March 5, 2024 Agenda and Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 12, 2024 Agenda and Committee Meeting Minutes. Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All members responded in the affirmative on a roll call vote, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Monnette Wike, Communications Manager shared with the Council and the Administration that Council has their own Facebook page as of today. During the set-up, she linked it to Instagram, the city website, and YouTube. She described the analytics for engagement. She addressed the concerns that the Council had at the last discussion. The program she would like the city to purchase is Stream Yard. The cost to the city will be two hundred thirty-nine dollars. Ms. Wike answered questions from the Council at this time.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Elmore reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Harcar reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson Smith reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services – Chairperson Brown reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Elmore reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Heck reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

### OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Michael T. Bivens – he is coming up on one hundred days in office. On April 10, 2024, the State of the City will be held at the YMCA beginning at 5:30 pm. He expects it to be a fantastic event and he wanted to personally invite members of the public and the Council to attend. It is still National Women's History Month and he had a couple of history facts. Yesterday he went to LifeCare Alliance. Catherine Nelson Black, who was the wife of Sam Black who was the Mayor of the City of Columbus, founded it in 1898. While he and his staff attended, they prepared meals for people. Franklin County just had the opportunity to do something historic. Franklin County has been around since 1803 and yesterday through the primary election; Franklin County has the opportunity to elect its first black female county prosecutor. In two hundred twenty years, the voters in Franklin County will get the choice to vote for the first black female county prosecutor. This Friday at noon, he will be visiting for the very first Coffee and Conversation with a female-owned business, Racha Tea at 561 South Hamilton Road. Everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda is going to be very organic, there will be talk, and he wants to hear citizens' concerns and he wants to develop relationships. He is all about developing and building relationships. He congratulated Casey Thomas on her engagement.

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus – next week at committee, he hopes to have more information for the Council about the tobacco retail license lawsuit. The laws will be enacted on April 23, 2024. Franklin County municipalities, Whitehall included, have TRL ordinances to help prevent tobacco and flavored tobacco from getting into kids' hands. The legislation will be to suspend the TRL ordinance should that law take effect and one of the things they will be looking at with other municipalities is joining a lawsuit against the state. What they believe the General Assembly has done is invaded our home rule authority to regulate and monitor the health and safety of the citizens.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – Ms. Wike came to his office a few days ago and shot a video that has been posted to Facebook regarding the change in the hours for the Auditors and Tax Department. A good sign regarding income taxes is that revenue for last month is more than was taken in at this time last year. Unfortunately, the tax refunds are also up for the same period. He asked for favorable consideration on Ordinance 015-2024 and Resolution 008-2024.

Director of Public Service Casey Thomas – Broad Street construction is continuing and the traffic is slow and go. Please be patient and considerate. This project will be a great reconstruction for Broad Street and the city. Councilperson Dixon brought to her the research on the zipper merge. She said it would be good for the others to research it as well. Use Main Street and Fifth Avenue as your alternate routes.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander – had no official report. He echoed Auditor Quincel's remarks.

President Potter – advised that the following reports have been filed in the Council office since the last meeting: the Auditor's Bank Report for February 2024, the Auditor's Statement of Cash Position Report for February 2024, and the Auditor's Revenue Report for February 2024.

### COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Agenda for the March 18, 2024 BZBA Meeting.

POLL PUBLIC:

Merle Robinson, Whitehall, OH spoke on the Stream Yard project. He has used this tool since 2020. He runs several of his conferences with it. The quality is very good. It is almost impossible for someone to zoom-bomb it as they do with YouTube sessions and such. It can handle ten-plus users and they are now experimenting with transcripts, so in the future, these things could be used. He encourages support for this project, as it will provide better information for the citizens.

VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

President Potter requested a roll call on whether each member of the council received a copy of each item of legislation listed on the agenda prior to the meeting, including any add-on legislation. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative.

THIRD READING:

There was no legislation for the third reading.

SECOND READING:

There was no legislation for the second reading.

FIRST READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 008-2024 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (SFM) EQUIPMENT GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 008-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Resolution No. 008-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 008-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion.

Auditor Quincel explained these two pieces of legislation at this time as well as during the agenda meeting.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Resolution No. 008-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 015-2024 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

APPROPRIATING TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) FROM PREVIOUSLY UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND (221) TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND SFM EQUIPMENT GRANT EXPENSE ACCOUNT 221.000.50060 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 015-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 015-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Ordinance No. 015-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 015-2024 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

The Easter Egg Hunt is on March 23, 2024.

The Eclipse Viewing Party is on April 8, 2024, at John Bishop Park.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Heck thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. She thanked Monnette for her presentation on YouTube. It answered some of the discussion and questions she had the last time.

Chairperson Smith thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. She thanked Monnette for taking the comments and coming up with solutions and is looking forward to a much clearer stream. You can get a lot of information from Facebook but their tiny blurry faces can be frustrating sometimes. She looks forward to expanding that public access. She appreciates the comments on Women's History Month.

Chairperson Harcar thanked Monnette for the presentation and she feels it is important that everyone understands it. For Women's History Month, she shared some book titles and wanted them placed on the tables for Literacy Month.

Chairperson Dixon thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. He thanked Ms. Wike for the presentation and he thanked the Mayor for listening to the concerns of the Council in such an endeavor and for his earnest effort to listen to, not just the Council but also the people themselves and in doing the right thing. He found it commendable and he wanted to say so.

Chairperson Brown thanked everyone for watching online and those attending tonight's meeting. He thanked Monnette for the presentation and he much appreciated her and the Mayor and anyone else who helped put the presentation together to address the concerns they had. He thanked the Administration for their reports and for making the city better.

Chairperson Elmore thanked those viewing from home and those who came out to this Council meeting. She thanked Monnette for the information and for making sure they had a good understanding of how they were going to move forward on the platform. She thanked Mr. Robinson for always being positive and affirming they are going in the right direction and that he is assisting and as a resident, participating in his community. She thanked the Mayor for always giving them insight and providing good information. She is looking forward to the State of the City and hearing about the innovative ideas and a glimpse as to where the city is headed.

President Potter thanked everyone for their comments as he thought they were well done. She thanked Monnette for her presentation and for helping them with their concerns.

Having nothing further, President Potter adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Submitted by,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: April 9, 2024

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President